

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A computer-implemented method for managing tasks, the method comprising steps of:

2 accessing a first server from a client;

3 retrieving by the first server status information associated with tasks stored on a

4 database for display to the client;

5 receiving an instruction for managing the tasks;

6 responsive to the instruction received, generating updates to the status

7 information; and

8 providing the status information as updated for display at the client.

1 2. The computer-implemented method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of

2 encapsulating functions associated with the tasks as programmable objects.

1 3. The computer-implemented method of Claim 1, wherein the tasks comprises a

2 plurality of attributes selected from a group comprising a description, a completion date,

3 a priority indicator, a duration indicator, an originator, and an assignee.

1 4. The computer-implemented method of Claim 3, wherein the step of generating

2 updates to the status information comprises the sub-steps of:

3 tracking a completion date associated with at least one of the tasks;

4 determining a failure to complete the at least one task by the completion date

5 corresponding thereto; and

6 providing notification of the failure.

1 5. The computer-implemented method of Claim 4, wherein providing notification

2 comprises the sub-steps of:

3 determining an assignee having responsibility for completing the task for which

4 failure was determined; and

5 forwarding a notification to a manager associated with the assignee.

1 6. The computer-implemented method of Claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

2 determining whether a user instruction is associated with an authorized user; and

3 responsive to a determination that the user instruction is associated with an

4 authorized user, modifying the status information based on the user instruction.

1 7. The computer-implemented method of Claim 1, wherein the step of generating

2 updates to the status information comprises the sub-steps of:

3 modifying the status information based on the user instruction; and

4 storing modified status information in the database.

1 8. The computer-implemented method of Claim 7, wherein the step of modifying the

2 status information comprises the sub-steps of:

3 determining a class associated with a group of tasks;

4 verifying that the class includes a parameter enabling modification of the status

5 information; and

6 responsive to verification that the class includes a parameter enabling

7 modification, modifying the status information in accordance with the

8 parameter.

1 9. The computer-implemented method of Claim 8, wherein the class is selected from a
2 group comprising users, managers, and administrators.

1 10. The computer-implemented method of Claim 9, further comprising the step of
2 associating access permission with the parameter by an administrator.

1 11. The computer-implemented method of Claim 9, further comprising the step of
2 assigning tasks to a selected user.

1 12. The computer-implemented method of Claim 9, wherein the status information
2 indicates to the users the tasks to be completed.

1 13. The computer-implemented method of Claim 9, wherein the status information
2 indicates to the managers the tasks that are overdue.

1 14. The computer-implemented method of Claim 1, wherein the user instruction is
2 selected from a group comprising an update to a task, and creation of a new task.

1 15. The computer-implemented method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
2 maintaining a representation of the status information on the first server;
3 modifying the status information with the updates; and
4 storing the modified status information to the database.

1 16. A method for integrating status information with updated information, the method
2 comprising the steps of:

3 accessing an account in response to an instruction received from a user;
 4 receiving the status information associated with the account from a database;
 5 receiving the updated information for modifying the status information from the
 6 user; and
 7 forming a combined presentation of the status information modified by the
 8 updated information, wherein the combined presentation includes a
 9 representation of the status information received from the database and a
 10 representation of the updated information.

1 17. The method of Claim 16, further comprising the step of transferring the combined
 2 presentation to a client computer for display.

1 18. The method of Claim 16, further comprising the step of storing the status information
 2 modified by the updated information on the database.

1 19. The method of Claim 17, wherein the status information comprises a plurality of
 2 tasks and a plurality of anomalies.

1 20. The method of Claim 19, further comprising the steps of:
 2 assigning a completion date to a first one of the tasks;
 3 determining whether the first one of the tasks was completed by the completion
 4 date;
 5 indicating that the first one of the tasks is an incomplete task if it is determined
 6 that the first one of the tasks was not completed by the completion date; and

7 providing notification of the incomplete task to an additional account for initiating
8 follow up.

1 21. The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of providing notification of the incomplete
2 task comprises the sub-steps of:

3 determining a user associated with the account having responsibility for
4 completing the incomplete task; and
5 transmitting the notification to the additional account assigned to a manager
6 associated with the user.

1 22. The method of Claim 19, wherein accessing an account in response to an instruction
2 received from a user comprises the sub-steps of:

3 receiving a user identification number and a password from the instruction;
4 accessing the database to authenticate the user identification number and the
5 password; and
6 responsive to the user identification number and the password being
7 authenticated, enabling access to the account.

1 23. The method of Claim 22, further comprising the sub-step of generating an error
2 message for display on the client computer responsive to the user identification number
3 and the password being unauthenticated.

1 24. The method of Claim 19, wherein the step of receiving the status information
2 associated with the account comprises the sub-steps of:

3 extracting state information from the instruction; and

4 determining whether a user-defined display format is associated with the state
5 information exists.

1 25. The method of Claim 24, further comprising the sub-steps of:

2 responsive to determining that the user-defined display format exists, retrieving
3 the user-defined display format from the database; and
4 determining whether the user-defined display format is associated with one or
5 more of the tasks and the anomalies.

1 26. The method of Claim 25, further comprising the step of incorporating the user-
2 defined display format with the tasks and the anomalies in the combined presentation in
3 response to the user-defined display format being associated with the tasks and the
4 anomalies.

1 27. The method of Claim 25, further comprising the step of incorporating a default
2 display format in the combined presentation responsive to the user-defined display format
3 being un-associated with the tasks and the anomalies.

1 28. The method of Claim 24, further comprising the sub-step of :
2 responsive to determining that the user-defined display format does not exist,
3 retrieving a default display format from a server; and
4 extracting the tasks and the anomalies associated with the user from the database.

1 29. The method of Claim 28, further comprising the step of incorporating the tasks and
2 the anomalies extracted with the default display format in the combined presentation.

1 30. The method of Claim 16, wherein the combined presentation includes at least one
2 form for representing the status information.

1 31. The method of Claim 16, wherein accessing an account in response to an instruction
2 received from a user comprises the sub-steps of:

3 processing requests received in the instruction to identify the user; and
4 coordinating the requests in order to access and control the account.

1 32. A computer-implemented method for tracking work flow information, the method
2 comprising the steps of:

3 accessing an account on a server from a client by a user;
4 displaying the work flow information in response to accessing the account
5 according to the position of the user;
6 modifying the information with updates; and
7 storing the information modified to the database.

1 33. The computer-implemented method of Claim 32, wherein the information displayed
2 is selected from a group comprising tasks to be completed, and anomalies that are
3 incomplete.

1 34. The computer-implemented method of Claim 33, further comprising the steps of:
2 assigning each of the task a serial number; and
3 identifying each of the tasks by the serial number corresponding thereto when the
4 information is received.

1 35. The computer-implemented method of Claim 32, further comprising the step of
2 selecting an order in which the information is displayed.

1 36. The computer-implemented method of Claim 33, wherein the account is associated
2 with a user selected from a group comprising users, managers, and administrators.

1 37. The computer-implemented method of Claim 36, wherein step of modifying the
2 information with updates includes a user defining an anomaly associated with the work
3 low information.

1 38. The computer-implemented method of Claim 37, wherein the step of modifying the
2 information with updates includes a manager assigning at least one of the users the
3 anomaly for rectification.

1 39. A system for tracking status information, comprising:
2 a server for accessing an account in response to an instruction received from a
3 client device communicatively coupled to the server;
4 coupled to the server, a database for providing the status information associated
5 with the account based on the instruction received;
6 a module for maintaining a copy of the status information on the server; and
7 a module for forming a combined presentation of the copy of status information
8 and updates provided by the client device.

1 40. A computer program product for deriving services through one or more accounts
2 from a database, the computer program product stored on a computer readable medium,
3 and adapted to perform the operations of:
4 accessing the accounts at a server in response to user instructions received;
5 the server extracting status information from the databases for a plurality of tasks
6 associated with the online account;
7 updating the status information based on the user instructions; and
8 storing the status information updated on the databases.

9 42. A program product for tracking completion of tasks from at least one account, the
10 program product stored on a computer readable medium and adapted to perform the
11 operations of:
12 accessing the account through sign-on over a first server;
13 responsive to user input, selecting particular ones of the tasks for viewing status
14 information corresponding thereto;
15 providing updates for the status information, the updates related to completion of
16 the particular ones of the tasks; and
17 storing the updates for the status information to the online account.